

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

- 1-5. (Canceled)
6. (Previously presented) An optical component comprising:
- a first element having at least one substantially planar surface; and
  - a lens element having at least one substantially planar surface, the lens element being positioned relative to the first element whereby the at least one substantially planar surface of the lens element is adjacent and substantially parallel to the at least one substantially planar surface of the first element, the lens element also having a curved surface for focusing light passing through it;
- wherein the first element is circularly symmetrical, having a generally circular base and generally cylindrical shape, and having a conical indentation within the upper portion of the cylinder shape that serves as a TIR element for light approaching at less than the critical angle from around the perimeter of the cylinder.
7. (Previously presented) The optical component of claim 6 wherein the lens element is circularly symmetrical, having a generally cylindrical shape but having a conical end which mates with the conical indentation in the first element and having a lens surface opposite the conical end.
8. (Previously presented) The optical component of claim 6 wherein the end of the generally cylindrical shape of the first element that is opposite to the conical indentation is substantially planar.
9. (Previously presented) The optical component of claim 6 wherein the end of the first element that is opposite to the conical indentation is substantially curved to form a lens surface.
- 10-22. (Canceled)
23. (New) An optical component comprising:
- a) a first lens element having a first substantially planar surface and an opposing first curved surface, said first curved surface having at least one first axis of symmetry perpendicular to said first substantially planar surface about which said first curved surface is symmetric; and

- b) a second lens element having a second substantially planar surface adjacent said first substantially planar surface of said first lens element and an opposing second curved surface, said second curved surface having at least one second axis of symmetry perpendicular to said second substantially planar surface about which said second curved surface is symmetric, said first and second axes of symmetry being non co-linear.
24. (New) A method of illuminating an optical modulator comprising:
- a) providing a spatial light modulator element operable in a first state and a second state;
  - b) providing an illumination path entering a prism assembly through a first face and passing through a total internal reflection interface within said prism to said reflective spatial light modulator element;
  - c) providing a first exit path from said modulator element passing through said total internal reflection interface and exiting said prism assembly through said curved first face;
  - d) providing a second exit path from said modulator element reflected by said total internal reflection interface and exiting said prism assembly through a second face, said paths arranged such that light following said illumination path to said reflective spatial light modulator reflects along said first exit path when said reflective spatial light modulator is operating in said first state, and along said second exit path when said spatial light modulator is operating in said second state.
25. (New) The method of Claim 24, said providing an illumination path comprising providing an illumination path entering a prism assembly through a first curved face.
26. (New) The method of Claim 24, said providing a second exit path comprising providing said second exit path from said modulator element reflected by said total internal reflection interface and exiting said prism assembly through a second curved face.
27. (New) The method of Claim 24, said providing an illumination path comprising providing said illumination path exiting said prism assembly to said reflective spatial light modulator through a curved face.
28. (New) A method of illuminating an optical modulator comprising:

- a) providing a spatial light modulator element operable in a first state and a second state;
  - b) providing an illumination path entering a prism assembly through a first face and reflected by a total internal reflection interface within said prism to said reflective spatial light modulator element;
  - c) providing a first exit path from said modulator element passing through said total internal reflection interface and exiting said prism assembly through a curved second face;
  - d) providing a second exit path from said modulator element passing through said total internal reflection interface and exiting said prism assembly through said curved second face, said paths arranged such that light following said illumination path to said reflective spatial light modulator reflects along said first exit path when said reflective spatial light modulator is operating in said first state, and along said second exit path when said spatial light modulator is operating in said second state and said second curved face causing said first and second exit paths to diverge.
29. (New) The method of Claim 28, said providing an illumination path comprising providing an illumination path entering a prism assembly through a first curved face.
30. (New) The method of Claim 28, said providing an illumination path comprising providing said illumination path exiting said prism assembly to said reflective spatial light modulator through a curved face.